



VOL. XVI.

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NO. 40.



OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN.

YANKEE PLOWS DON'T SUIT ALL.

The many improvements that have been made in the form and construction of the plow, during the last twenty-five years, one would suppose ought to be such that among the great variety of sorts, shapes, sizes and constructions, every body would be suited. This is not the case. We recollect that fault was found in England with some of the best plows that Mr. Colman carried from this country to that country. The plowmen were not only dissatisfied with the plow, but with the work done with them. The editor of the last number of the Toronto Cultivator and Farmer, in his remarks upon the implements exhibited at the late New York State Agricultural Show and Fair, held at Buffalo, says—"It was easy to see that their plows possessed but few charms for the Canadian farmer, who turned up his nose in contempt as he viewed their short handled, wide beveled, cast iron plows, and thought of his own iron or wooden Scotch plow at home. It is very strange that this important implement has not been improved upon a better model than that so much in vogue among our neighbors. Mr. Bell, from Toronto, had two of his excellent plows on the ground, which the society might have purchased and retained as patterns with great advantage. In the cultivation of our soil there is no comparison between the two implements. Indeed a 'Yankee' plow will hardly be tolerated on clay farms except for cross plowing, and surely the same kind of soil must be turned over on the same principles in one country as in the other."

Now, making due allowance for the pride of country which every man feels or should feel, we think our friend of the Canadian Cultivator either did not see or he judged the models of the "Yankee" plow, or his judgment was a little warped by coming over the dizzy heights of Niagara. It is true, that in some of the models of the Yankee plow, the manufacturer, in trying to avoid the cumbersome extreme of the Scotch plow, leaned too far the other way, and made his handles too short and too upright, and his mould-board also too short. Experience, however, taught him better, and we have many patterns among us which exhibit a just and reasonable mean between the two. Our friend is right, when he says that "the same kind of soil must be turned over on the same principles in one country as in the other." And what are some of the principles? Setting aside the mooted question, which is best, a furrow laid over completely flat, or set up on its edge—we will limit the principles of turning, awarding land for instance, to two. The first principle is this: The furrow slice, from the point of the plow to the heel of the mould-board, is, in form, the thread of a screw; or, perhaps it would better illustrate it, to compare it to the web of a screw auger, with a long twist. Take an elastic saw plate, fasten one end to the table, and turn it so that at the other end the under side is uppermost, and you represent the furrow in all its positions, from the first lifting from its bed—its progress or transition over—and its position when over. The mould-board, or whole plow should be of the shape that will cut a slice of ground, of given width and depth, and place it in that position, with the least friction or resistance, and of course with the least expenditure of force. As the plow is in progressive motion during the turning of this slice of earth, it will be found that there is a proper medium of length suitable, to accomplish it. If it be too short and too curved, it will break the slice, and push it over unsteadily, like the crowding of a blunt wedge through the soil. If it be of just the right length, it will lift the slice easily, and gradually—turn it gently and completely, and leave it perfectly reversed in position. If too long, it renders the implement cumbersome and prolongs the friction to a useless degree.

The other principle is: To have the beam of such a length and in such a position as to enable the power, or draft, to be applied equally, nearest the point of greatest resistance, and to have the handles of such length and slope as to enable the plowman to guide, turn and handle it, while in operation, with the least expense of force and time. These plows, and if there were none exhibited at Buffalo, that would come up to the work and perform it as well or better, with less power of team, and less weight and cost of material, than any our friend can show in Canada, we think we can furnish him some of Up East manufacture that will. When the Atlantic and Montreal Railroad is done, if we are both alive and in plow-jogging condition, we will send him one.

DEEP TILLAGE PREVENTIVE OF BLIGHT IN YOUNG PEAR TREES.

One of the most formidable troubles in rearing pear trees from the seed, is a species of leaf blight, which attacks them generally in July, after they come up from the seed. Various remedies have been recommended for this. The last one we find in the Horticultural department of the Genesee Farmer, conducted by P. Barry. In an article recommending deep tillage as the basis of all good culture, he says: "This season our pear seedlings grow in a plot trenched last summer, more than two feet deep. The surface soil was placed below, and the subsoil above. During the early part of the season, while

the roots were among the subsoil that was brought to the surface, the growth was moderate; but about the time when the leaf blight was expected, and had actually seized upon others in an untrenched soil—they took a new start, the leaves assumed a deeper green, and the growth was two to one what it was before. Why? because the roots had just arrived, at the their downward progress, at the fine surface soil that had been buried, and that contained moisture and other fertilizing materials; they revelled in it, and have had defiance to all kinds of blight thus far."

If the preservation of friend Barry's trees was owing to their roots plunging into a soil more fine and nutritive, why is not the converse of this the cause of the leaf blight, namely: the roots at a certain state of their growth plunging into a subsoil, hard, stiff, destitute of suitable nourishment, and perhaps containing materials, when taken into the sap vessels of the young trees, brings on the disease in question?

May not this be the cause also of some of the blights which occur in pear trees of adult age, and which cannot be traced to the action of insects or to frozen sap?

THE WEATHER AND CROPS.

The past month of September has been more wet and cold in Maine, than any we have had for several years—at least, so it has seemed to us, although we have not had recourse to thermometers, barometers, and pluviometers, to mark the comparative increase or decrease of the above named conditions of the weather.

This state of the weather has made it difficult to progress much in harvesting the autumnal crops. Indian corn will not be so abundant nor so sound as it was last year. The weather, during the summer and autumn thus far, has been too wet and the nights too cold to allow of a first rate crop. We think there will be from an eighth to a quarter less raised among us than what was last year. Potatoes are "small and few in a hill," and a large proportion of those few have rotted. Probably the crop is somewhere from a third to a half less than last year. We believe the rot was more prevalent near the sea-board than in the interior. Wheat has done pretty well where the weevil did not abound; but there was but very little sowed. Oats have yielded bountifully. More fields of them were sowed than heretofore, and the yield has been exceedingly good. A third more have been raised this year than during the last. Apples, in our vicinity, are very scarce. The blossoms, in the spring, were very full, but a few cold nights and strong gales destroyed them and ruined the crop. Hay is abundant, and the fall feed excellent. We hope October and November will be mild and pleasant, and a grateful Indian Summer let us down easy into the embraces of old Mr. December.

BLUE JOINT GRASS.

This species of grass is well known to the first settlers on our frontiers, for it oftentimes forms a source of nourishment to their stock during the summer, and makes very good hay if cut in season. It is a tall grass, springing up and growing luxuriantly in its natural low land meadows. Its history, its habits and its peculiar characteristics are not well known, and yet it is deserving more attention than it has hitherto received. It is considered to be a perennial grass; but, from certain circumstances, we are inclined to the belief that it is either an annual or biennial. Our reasons for this belief are these. After the meadows, where it abounds, have been fed down or mowed a little while, it disappears. Why is this, if it were not by reason of preventing its seed from ripening, by which it would be replenished and continued?

In certain situations it grows luxuriantly, and produces a great burden of excellent hay. We should be very glad to receive information of a practical and reliable character in regard to it. Can any one furnish us with such? As its true nature could be understood, so as to enable those who have low lands where it grows luxuriantly to its wild state, to again establish it in its great luxuriance as formerly, the knowledge would be worth much to many. We have all of us been too remiss in the study of our native grasses. There are many that might be made very valuable to us, did we but know more of their peculiar habits, and thereby learn to cultivate them as they require to be.

HOUSE-FEEDING SHEEP.

Richard Simeon, Isle of Wight, England, has very successfully practiced stall-feeding sheep for several years, one house containing 104 stalls, the other 150.

The stalls should accord with the size of the sheep, it being essential that they should not be so large that the animal can turn round and dirty the trough. Each sheep is confined by a leather collar, attached to a slight chain, furnished with a couple of swivels, sufficiently long to secure comfort to the animal, but not long enough to hang back beyond the division of his stall, and to interfere with his neighbor. A feeding trough is placed at the head of each stall, divided for turneps at one end, and chaff, meal, &c., at the other, and a small rack for clover above. A cast-iron trough to every two sheep, is supplied with water by a stop-cock from a common cistern. A manure trough, two feet wide and deep, made of brick and water lime, and covered with a wood grating, receives the manure, the sheep standing in rows back to back. This needs cleaning once in ten weeks. Shutters to the stalls regulate the amount of fresh air in cold and mild weather. The manure is of the richest quality, equal to guano. The sheep are healthy, and thrive fast, gaining usually two and a half pounds per week, often three pounds and in some rare instances a pound a day.

These advantages could not be less in our severer winters. These facts were stated in the Gardener's Chronicle.

[Albany Cultivator.]

LIST OF PREMIUMS.

Kennebec County Agricultural Society.

The Cattle Show and Fair will be held at Hallowell Cross Roads, on Wednesday and Thursday, October 11th and 12th.

The Trustees of the Kennebec County Agricultural Society, offer the following list of premiums, for 1848.

For the best stock of neat cattle from any farm in the county, including the whole stock of the farm, working team, dairy and growing cattle, Diploma and second, \$3 00

second, 2 00

On Horses,

best Stallion, Diploma and 4 00

second do., 4 00

best Breeding Mare, Diploma and 2 00

second do., 2 00

best pair matched horses, Dip. and 2 00

second do., 2 00

On Neat Cattle,

CLASS I—DIPLOMAS.

For the best Bull, of any age, Diploma and 3 00

second do., 2 00

best Cow, Diploma and 2 00

second do., 2 00

best two years old Heifer, Diploma and 1 00

second do., 1 00

best year old Heifer, 1 00

best Heifer Calf, 1 00

CLASS II—MERITORS.

For the best Bull, of any age, Diploma and 2 00

second do., 1 00

best Cow, Diploma and 2 00

second do., 1 00

best two years old Heifer, Diploma and 2 00

second do., 1 00

best year old Heifer, 1 00

best Heifer Calf, 1 00

CLASS III—ATTESTATIONS.

To any person who shall bring into the county a thoroughbred Ayrshire Bull, 4 00

CLASS IV—GRADE CATTLE.

For the best Bull, two years old or upward, Diploma and 2 00

second do., Vol. Maine Farmer or Cultivator, 1 00

best year old, Diploma and 1 00

best Bull Calf, Diploma and 1 00

second do., 1 00

best Cow, Diploma and 2 00

second do., 1 00

best year old Heifer, Diploma and 1 00

second do., 1 00

best year old Heifer, 1 00

best Heifer Calf, 1 00

CLASS V—NATIVES.

best Bull, Diploma and 2 00

second do., 1 00

best Cow, Diploma and 2 00

second do., 1 00

best year old Heifer, 1 00

best year old, 1 00

best two years old Heifer, 1 00

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For the third do., Vol. Me. Farmer or Cultivator.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

For the best Sward Plow, Diploma and 3 00

second do., 2 00

best Seed Plow, Diploma and 2 00

second do., 2 00

best Subsoil do., Diploma and 1 00

second do., 1 00

best do. Scythes, Diploma and 1 00

second do., 1 00

best do. Hay Forks, Diploma and 1 00

second do., 1 00

best do. Manure Forks, Dip. and 1 00

second do., 1 00

best do. Shovels, Diploma and 1 00

second do., 1 00

best do. Narrow Axes, Dip. and 1 00

second do., 1 00

best do. Hoes, Diploma and 1 00

second do., 1 00

best do. Grain Cradles, Dip. and 1 00

second do., 1 00

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

best Butter, 50 lbs., Diploma and 3 00

second do., 2 00

best Cheese, 50 lbs., Dip. and 3 00

second do., 2 00

third do., Vol. Farmer or Cultivator.

HOUSEHOLD MANUFACTURES.

best Filled Cloth, 10 yds., 1 50

second do., 1 00

best piece of Frocking, 10 yards, stripe 2 and 3, 1 00

second do., 75

best Woolen Flannel, 10 yards, 1 00

second do., 75

best Cotton and Wool Flannel, 10 yds., 1 00

second do., 75

best Woolen Carpeting, 20 yards, 2 00

second do., 1 50

best Hosiery Rug, 75

second do., 50

best two pairs Worsted Hose, 75

second do., 50

best 1 dozen pairs Men's Woolen Half 75

second do., 50

best Highland Shawl, 1 00

second do., 75

best Fur Cape, 50

best Silk Hose or Gloves, 50

best Red Suspenders, 75

second do., 50

best Worsted Yarn, 50

best Sewing Silk, 50

best Work Silk, 50

best Silk Hose or Gloves, 50

best Red Suspenders, 75

second do., 50

best Wrought Collar or Wristlets, 50

second do., 50

FARMING.

greatest quantity of honey produced on one farm, a written statement of the quantity produced, and the manner of managing the bees, with a sample of the honey to be presented to the committee, 3 00

best constructed beehive, Dip. and 2 00

best 1 Horse Farm Wagon, Dip. and 2 00

second do., 2 00

best 1 do. Tanned Calf Skin, Dip. and 1 00

best 1 do. Sleigh or Wagon Harness, Dip. and 2 00

second do., 2 00

best 1 dozen pairs Men's Thick Boots, Diploma and 1 00

second do., 1 00

best 1 dozen Thin do., Diploma and 1 00

second do., 1 00

best 1 do. pair Lady's Walking Shoes, Diploma and 50

second do., 50

best 1 do. Kid Slippers, Dip. and 50

best specimen Cabinet Work, Dip. and 2 00

Committees.

On Horses. George Williamson, Pittsburg; G. W. Stanley, Augusta; James Pullen, Waterville.

On best Stock of Neat Cattle—Bulls and Bull Calves. Lovett Lottrop, Leeds; Isaac N. Wadsworth, Hallowell; John Stevens, Mt. Vernon; Lawrence Guld, Sidney.

On Cows—Heifers and Heifer Calves. E. Wood, Waterville; Paine Wingate, Jr., Hallowell; Nath'l Robinson, Augusta.

On Working Oxen and Team Teams. Calvin Reynolds, Sidney; J. Whiting Winslow, Readfield; Isaac Smith, Augusta.

On Stags, Deer, and Bucks. Dr. Bradford Sawtelle, Sidney; Jacob Churchill, Augusta; Dudley Fogg, Readfield; William Bailey, Littlefield.

On Pig Raising. Samuel Baker, Augusta; Amos Downing, Waterville; James Page, Augusta.

On Swine, Sheep, and Poultry. Moore Taber, Vassalboro; Elisha Case, Readfield; Truman Wood, Waterville; Charles C. Grant, Augusta.

On Agricultural Implements and Plowing Match. Horace Farin, Waterville; Thomas Fenn, Readfield; Ichabod C. Gifford, Vassalboro; Alvah Wadsworth, Hallowell.

On Butter, Cheese, Fruit, Honey, and Sugar. E. Holmes, Waterville; David Severance, William T. Johnson, William A. Drew, Augusta; Newman & Rowell, Hallowell.

On Household Manufactures. Emory O. Bean, Readfield; Albert Thomas, William A. Sampson, Hallowell.

On all Articles not named in the List of Premiums, and all contained in said List, not assigned to any of the above named Committees. R. G. Lincoln, Jacob Pope, E. K. Butler, Hallowell; William Thomas, Augusta.

General Regulations.

1. Entries for premiums on stocks, and such articles and crops as are presented at the Show, may be made, by written or verbal statement, to the Secretary, Russell Eaton, at the Maine Farmer Office, Augusta, at any time before the day of Exhibition; or at the Mansion House, Hallowell Cross Roads, on the day preceding; and till

